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Commission on Sustainable Development
Seventeenth session
4-15 May 2009
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Thematic cluster for the implementation cycle 2008-2009 — policy session:
   (a) Agriculture;
   (b) Rural development;
   (c) Land;
   (d) Drought;
   (e) Desertification;
   (f) Africa.
4. Other matters.
5. Provisional agenda for the eighteenth session of the Commission.
6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its seventeenth session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that, at the commencement of the first meeting of a regular session, the Commission shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairman and such other officers as may be required. In previous sessions, the Commission elected, in addition to a Chairman, four Vice-Chairmen, one of whom also served as Rapporteur.

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In its resolution 1997/63, the Council decided on the following future arrangements for the election of the Bureau of the Commission in order to implement the provisions of paragraph 136 of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21:

> The Commission, immediately following the closure of a regular session, will hold the first meeting of its subsequent regular session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chairman and other members of the Bureau in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council.

On 16 May 2008, the Commission elected Gerda Verburg (Netherlands) as Chairperson and Javad Amin-Mansour (Islamic Republic of Iran) as Vice-Chairperson of its seventeenth session and decided to postpone the election of the remaining members of the Bureau to a future meeting.

The membership of the Commission for its seventeenth session is contained in annex II.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council provides that the Commission shall, at the beginning of each session, adopt the agenda for the session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

In its decision 2008/237, the Council took note of the report of the Commission on its sixteenth session and approved the provisional agenda for its seventeenth session.

3. Thematic cluster for the implementation cycle 2008-2009 — policy session

(a) Agriculture

(b) Rural development

(c) Land

(d) Drought

(e) Desertification

(f) Africa

In its resolution 2003/61, the Council decided that in the policy year, the Commission would convene an intergovernmental preparatory meeting for one week in New York in February/March to discuss policy options and possible actions to address the constraints and obstacles in the process of implementation identified during the review year.

The Council also decided that the discussions of the intergovernmental preparatory meeting would be based on the outcome of the review session, and reports by the Secretary-General, as well as other relevant inputs. Based on those discussions, the Chair would prepare a draft negotiating document for consideration at the policy session.

Accordingly, the Commission will convene the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting in New York from 23 to 27 February 2009. The report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting, to be submitted to the Commission at its

seventeenth session, will contain the Chair's draft negotiating document for further consideration by the Commission.

Documentation

Report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (E/CN.17/2009/__)

In paragraph 1 of its resolution 2003/61, the Council decided that the organization of work of the Commission should contribute to advancing the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation") at all levels. In the same resolution, the Council also decided that in order to fulfil its mandate, the work of the Commission would be organized in a series of two-year action-oriented implementation cycles, which would include a review session and a policy session.

The Council also decided that at its policy session, to be held in April/May of the second year of the cycle, the Commission would take policy decisions on practical measures and options to expedite implementation in the selected thematic cluster of issues, taking account of the discussions of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting, the Secretary-General's reports and other relevant inputs.

The Council further decided that at its review sessions and policy sessions, the Commission should mobilize further action by all implementation actors to overcome obstacles and constraints in the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and should address new challenges and opportunities and share lessons learned and best practices.

In the same resolution, the Council decided to adopt a multi-year programme of work of the Commission for the period after 2003. For the period 2008-2009, the multi-year programme of work will be as follows:

Thematic cluster	*Cross-cutting issues*
• Agriculture • Rural development • Land • Drought • Desertification • Africa	Poverty eradication; changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production; protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development; sustainable development in a globalizing world; health and sustainable development; sustainable development of small island developing States; sustainable development for Africa; other regional initiatives; means of implementation; institutional framework for sustainable development; gender equality; and education

The Council also decided that the implementation of the programme of work would be guided, inter alia, by the following considerations:

(a) The review and evaluation of the implementation of actions, commitments and targets would be dealt with in accordance with the relevant provisions of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the decisions of the Commission. The thematic clusters should be addressed in an integrated manner, taking into account the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. In recognition on the fact that all the issues identified in Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation were important, the implementation process should cover all those issues equally, but the selection of some issues during a given cycle would not thereby diminish the importance of the commitments undertaken with respect to the issues to be considered during future cycles;

(b) Means of implementation, as identified in Agenda 21 and chapter X of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, should be addressed in every cycle and for every relevant issue, action and commitment;

(c) Other cross-cutting issues, as referred to in the annex to Council resolution 2003/61, should also be addressed in every cycle;

(d) Initiatives for Africa and other regions, as well as initiatives on small island developing States and least developed countries, would be considered in every cycle with respect to all relevant issues, actions and targets;

(e) The Commission should focus on those issues where it could add value to intergovernmental deliberations on cross-sectoral and sectoral issues, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 47/191, in particular its paragraphs 3 (h), 21 and 23, as well as paragraph 139 (f) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(f) The Commission might decide to incorporate new challenges and opportunities related to implementation into its multi-year programme of work.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on policy options and actions for expediting progress in implementation: agriculture (E/CN.17/2009/3)

Report of the Secretary-General on policy options and actions for expediting progress in implementation: rural development (E/CN.17/2009/4)

Report of the Secretary-General on policy options and actions for expediting progress in implementation: land (E/CN.17/2009/5)

Report of the Secretary-General on policy options and actions for expediting progress in implementation: drought (E/CN.17/2009/6)

Report of the Secretary-General on policy options and actions for expediting progress in implementation: desertification (E/CN.17/2009/7)

Report of the Secretary-General on policy options and actions for expediting progress in implementation: Africa (E/CN.17/2009/8)

Report of the Secretary-General on policy options and actions for expediting progress in implementation: interlinkages and cross-cutting issues (E/CN.17/2009/9)

Note by the Secretariat on major groups priorities for action in agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertificatior and Africa (E/CN.17/2009/10)

Background papers (for information only, to be made available in the language of submission and posted on the following website: http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/docs_csd16.htm)

4. Other matters

5. Provisional agenda for the eighteenth session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Secretary-General shall submit a draft provisional agenda for the Commission's subsequent session, indicating in respect of each agenda item the documents to be submitted under that item and the legislative authority for their preparation, in order to enable the Commission to consider the documents from the point of view of their contribution to the work of the Commission and of their urgency and relevance in the light of the current session.

6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its seventeenth session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission reports to the Council on the work of each session.

Annex I

Proposed organization of work for the seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development[a]

The proposed organization of work for the seventeenth session of the Commission has been prepared on the basis of informal consultations conducted by the Bureau and is set out below.

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Programme*
Week of 4-8 May 2009		
Monday, 4 May		Opening of the session
10 a.m.-1 p.m.		Plenary
	1	Election of officers
	2	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
	3	Reports on intersessional meetings
		Introduction of the Chairperson's draft negotiating document
	3	Group statements
	3	Interactive dialogue with major groups
3-6 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	General comments on the Chairperson's draft negotiating document[b]
Tuesday, 5 May		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Thematic cluster for the implementation cycle 2008-2009 — policy session: parallel negotiations
		(a) Agriculture
		(b) Rural development
		(c) Land
		(d) Drought
		(e) Desertification
		(f) Africa
3-6 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Thematic cluster for the implementation cycle 2008-2009 — policy session: parallel negotiations (*continued*)

[a] Reflecting informal consultations conducted by the Bureau until 13 February 2009.

[b] Representatives of the regional commissions, the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies could also be invited to speak, after Member States.

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Programme*
Wednesday, 6 May		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Thematic cluster for the implementation cycle 2008-2009 — policy session: parallel negotiations (*continued*)
3-5.30 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Thematic cluster for the implementation cycle 2008-2009 — policy session: parallel negotiations (*continued*)
5.30-6 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Reporting by working groups on the progress in negotiations
Thursday, 7 May		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Thematic cluster for the implementation cycle 2008-2009 — policy session: parallel negotiations (*continued*)
3-6 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Thematic cluster for the implementation cycle 2008-2009 — policy session: parallel negotiations (*continued*)
Friday, 8 May		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Thematic cluster for the implementation cycle 2008-2009 — policy session: parallel negotiations (*continued*)
3-5.30 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Thematic cluster for the implementation cycle 2008-2009 — policy session: parallel negotiations (*continued*)
5.30-6 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Reporting by working groups on the progress in negotiations
Week of 11-15 May		
Monday, 11 May		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Thematic cluster for the implementation cycle 2008-2009 — policy session: parallel negotiations (*continued*)
3-6 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Thematic cluster for the implementation cycle 2008-2009 — policy session: parallel negotiations (*continued*)
Tuesday, 12 May		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Thematic cluster for the implementation cycle 2008-2009 — policy session: parallel negotiations (*continued*)

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Programme*
3-5.30 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Thematic cluster for the implementation cycle 2008-2009 — policy session: parallel negotiations (*continued*)
5.30-6 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Reporting by working groups on the progress in negotiations
Wednesday, 13 May		**High-level segment**
8.30-10 a.m.		Informal ministerial meeting: introductory session
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Official opening of the high-level segment
		Statements and interactive discussions on policy options, practical measures and the way forward
3-6 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Statements and interactive discussions on policy options, practical measures and the way forward (*continued*)
		Three ministerial round tables
Thursday, 14 May		
8.30-10 a.m.		Informal ministerial meeting with the United Nations system
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Interactive discussions with heads of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes
		Statements and interactive discussions on policy options, practical measures and the way forward (*continued*)
3-6 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Statements and interactive discussions on policy options, practical measures and the way forward (*continued*)
		Interactive discussions with major groups
Friday, 15 May		
8.30-10 a.m.		Informal ministerial meeting: summing up
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Statements and interactive discussions on policy options, practical measures and the way forward (*continued*)
3-4.30 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Presentation of the outcome of the seventeenth session of the Commission
4.30-5.30 p.m.	4	Provisional agenda for the eighteenth session of the Commission

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Programme*
5.30-6 p.m.	5	Adoption of the report of the Commission on its seventeenth session Closing of the seventeenth session of the Commission Election of the Bureau of the eighteenth session of the Commission

Annex II

Membership of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventeenth session

Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Australia
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Belgium
Brazil
Canada
Cape Verde
Chile
Costa Rica
Croatia
Czech Republic
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Djibouti
Estonia
France
Gabon
Gambia
Germany
Guatemala
Guinea
Haiti
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Israel
Japan
Kuwait
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Malawi
Monaco
Namibia
Netherlands
Pakistan
Peru
Poland
Republic of Korea
Romania
Russian Federation
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
South Africa
Spain
Sudan
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Arab Emirates
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Uruguay
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)